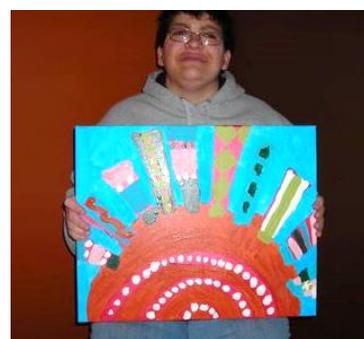


The Value of Art: Creating Art is Transformative

Creating art can be transformative, especially for individuals who utilize art for therapeutic or developmental purposes. *The Value of Art* exhibition showcases the work of individuals who create art as therapy and for developmental or personal expression. The exhibition artists enjoyed exploring a variety of media and themes in their artwork, while the viewer can find the value of art in its beauty, or more notably, in the creative process itself.

A multitude of social agencies in our county provide artistic projects for special needs clients. The artwork in this exhibition comes from non-profit organizations Artistry Oasis, Balance, and Portal that persevered in creative ways with artistic opportunities for clients despite the disruptions and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Artwork submitted by Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Project predates the pandemic. These four agencies are proudly showing more than 60 client artworks in this heart-warming presentation. Artists and art therapists Carol Gengler, Erica Huntzinger, and Alice Struck helped formulate plans for this exhibition along with art educators Anna Grosch and Gina Studelska and Cedarburg Art Museum volunteers while **Kohler Foundation, Inc.** graciously provided support for framing and presentation expenses.

Artistry Oasis, LLC is a non-profit organization specifically serving artists with special needs in Ozaukee County and surrounding areas. Since 2014, artist, teacher, and program director Kerry Pratt has been the energizing force behind what was earlier called Art Oasis and now Artistry Oasis. Pratt has developed a skill-building program that caters to artists with special needs with the help of enthusiastically committed volunteers. The Artistry Oasis program teaches an array of arts, while encouraging creativity, building fine motor skills, and increasing social skills and confidence. The arts activities also foster community involvement as the special needs artists show their artwork in various community venues. Classes meet in a studio setting at the North Shore Academy of Arts building in Grafton four days per week.



The **Ozaukee County Jail Literacy Program, Inc. (OCJLP)** is a non-profit organization that was founded by Nina Walker in Ozaukee County in 1992 in order to provide educational opportunities to incarcerated adults. Inmates that are over age 18 who do not have their high school diplomas, are currently in the Ozaukee County Jail, and have an interest and dedication in furthering their education are given the opportunity to earn their High School Equivalency Diploma. Through the dedication of Nina Walker, devoted teachers, and support from individuals and businesses in our county, the program has provided invaluable educational opportunities for incarcerated individuals to improve their personal and employment potential. Art workshops provided by art educator Gina Studelska are one of the many instructional areas to provide important skills and self-awareness amidst incarceration, leading to the reduction of recidivism. The OCJLP is currently the only private agency in Wisconsin that provides education at the jail level.

Since 1991, **Balance, Inc.** has been serving Ozaukee County citizens with developmental disabilities. Its primary objective is to provide support for individuals so that they can live in their homes, rather than in an institution. Balance's Pace Day Program assists the clients in discovering and connecting with their community, while developing relationships to help enhance their lives. Artmaking is one of the many activities of Balance's Pace Day Program in Grafton and Port Washington that helps individuals reach their full potential. Thanks to Kären Cohen of Balance, Inc. for the artistic contributions of Balance clients for this exhibition.



Portal, Inc. is a not-for-profit agency that has served adult citizens with developmental disabilities since 1965. The organization is dedicated to advancing employment and meaningful community life opportunities for more than 200 individuals with disabilities, primarily from Ozaukee and surrounding counties. Portal provides support and experiences to live more fulfilling and meaningful lives through their employment services, adult life transitions program, community and adult day services, and recreation and leisure programming. In its Community and Adult Day Services, the Art Applause program is one of many to help meet the personal and development goals of the clients. Portal artists work in a variety of media including photography, painting, mixed media, glass fusion, and fiber and fabric arts. Some art projects are done collaboratively, and other Art Applause artwork has been exhibited throughout Southeastern Wisconsin or commissioned as custom pieces for workplaces. Art educator Renée Schreiner works with Portal's artists and provided the artwork for this exhibition.



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